

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A contribution processing device comprising:

a registering unit configured to register user information of a content provider with a user information database, the information including at least information of a credit card of the content provider;

authenticating unit configured to authenticate said user information;

a receiving unit configured to receive, when said authenticating unit authenticates said user information, over a network from a predetermined server personal content data which were personally created by ~~[[a]]~~ said content provider and display data for displaying a user contribution icon including a contribution button configured to be selected to indicate that a contribution is to be given to the content provider of the personal content data associated with said user contribution icon, and given in consideration for sharing by the content provider of the personal content data over a network from a predetermined server;

a display control unit configured to control a display screen, said display screen configured to display the contribution icon and the personal content data, simultaneously;

a contribution acceptance unit configured to provide an indication of an acceptance of the contribution from a registered user without a subsequent request for information regarding how payment is going to be made;

a contribution data creating unit configured to create contribution data that corresponds to a given amount of the contribution after the contribution icon is selected on said content display screen; and

a transmitting unit configured to ~~transmit~~ instruct a credit card company of said credit card of said content provider to make a settlement based on said contribution data created by said contribution data creating unit ~~to a contribution managing device over said network.~~

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing device according to Claim 1, wherein

said contribution data creating unit is configured to displays a contribution amount selection screen showing a plurality of amounts on said display means in response to the selection of said contribution button, and to create said contribution data corresponding to said amount selected on said contribution amount selection screen.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing device according to Claim 1, wherein

said contribution data creating unit is configured to create said contribution data equivalent to an amount which is directly entered in a contribution amount input area corresponding to said contribution button when the contribution button is selected.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing device according to Claim 1, wherein

said contribution data creating data unit is configured to change an amount directly entered in a contribution amount input area corresponding to said contribution button by the amount more than a fixed minimum amount, according to user's operations when the contribution button is selected, and to create said contribution data equivalent to the changed amount.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A contribution processing method, comprising:
registering user information of a content provider with a user information database,
the information including at least information of a credit card of the content provider;
authenticating said user information;
receiving, when said user information is authenticated, over a network from a
predetermined server personal content data which were personally created by ~~[[a]]~~ the content
provider and display data for displaying a user contribution icon including a contribution
button configured to be selected to indicate that a contribution is to be given to the content
provider of the personal content data associated with said user contribution icon, and given in
consideration for sharing by the content provider of the personal content data over a network
from a predetermined server;
displaying a display screen displaying the contribution icon and the personal content
data, simultaneously;
providing an indication of an acceptance of the contribution from a registered user
without a subsequent request for information regarding how payment is going to be made;
creating contribution data that corresponds to a given amount of the contribution after
the contribution icon is selected on said content display screen; and
~~transmitting~~ instructing a credit card company of said credit card of said content
provider to make a settlement based on said created contribution data ~~to a contribution~~
~~managing device over said network.~~

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing method according to
Claim 5, wherein said creating comprises:

displaying a contribution amount selection screen which displays a plurality of
amounts in response to the selection of said contribution button; and

creating said contribution data equivalent to said amount selected on said contribution amount selection screen.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing method according to Claim 5, wherein said creating comprises:

creating said contribution data equivalent to an amount which is directly entered in a contribution amount input area corresponding to said contribution button when the contribution button is selected.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing method according to Claim 5, wherein said creating comprises:

changing an amount directly entered in a contribution amount input area corresponding to said contribution button by the amount more than a fixed minimum amount, according to user's operations when the contribution button is selected; and
creating said contribution data equivalent to the changed amount.

Claims 9-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium to make an information processing device execute a program, wherein

said program performs the function of:

registering user information of a content provider with a user information database,
the information including at least information of a credit card of the content provider;
authenticating said user information;

receiving, when said user information is authenticated, over a network from a predetermined server personal content data which were personally created by ~~[[a]]~~ the content provider and display data for displaying a user contribution icon including a contribution button configured to be selected to indicate that a contribution is to be given to the content provider of the personal content data associated with said user contribution icon, and given in consideration for sharing by the content provider of the personal content data over a network from a predetermined server;

displaying a display screen displaying the contribution icon and the personal content data, simultaneously;

providing an indication of an acceptance of the contribution from a registered user without a subsequent request for information regarding how payment is going to be made;

creating contribution data that corresponds to a given amount of the contribution after the contribution icon is selected on said content display screen; and

~~transmitting~~ instructing a credit card company of said credit card of said content provider to make a settlement based on said created contribution data ~~to a contribution managing device over said network~~.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The program storage medium according to Claim 13, wherein said creating comprises:

displaying a contribution amount selection screen which displays a plurality of amounts in response to the selection of said contribution button; and

creating said contribution data equivalent to said amount selected on said contribution amount selection screen.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The program storage medium according to Claim 13, wherein said creating comprises:

creating said contribution data equivalent to an amount which is directly entered in a contribution amount input area corresponding to said contribution button when the contribution button is selected.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The program storage medium according to Claim 13, wherein said creating comprises:

changing an amount directly entered in a contribution amount input area corresponding to said contribution button by the amount more than a fixed minimum amount, according to user's operations when the contribution button is selected; and
creating said contribution data equivalent to the changed amount.

Claims 17-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing device according to Claim 1,

wherein said contribution data is added to user information corresponding to the content provider, and a service charge for supplying said content is charged to said user information.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing method according to Claim 5,

wherein said contribution data is added to user information corresponding to the content provider, and a service charge for supplying said content is charged to said user information.

Claims 26-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing device according to Claim 1, wherein

said predetermined server comprises the contribution managing device.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The contribution processing device according to Claim 1, wherein

said amount of contribution includes electronic money.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The contribution processing device according to Claim 1, wherein

said amount of contribution includes [[of]] points if a contributor of the contribution comprises said registered user on a service, and

the content provider provides the content to other apparatus including the contribution managing device via the service.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A contribution processing system comprising:
a computer-based apparatus configured to
register user information of a content provider with a user information database, the
information including at least information of a credit card of the content provider,

authenticate said user information, and
transmit, when said user information is authenticated, over a network from a
~~predetermined server~~ over a network personal content data which were personally created by
a content provider and display data for displaying a user contribution icon including a
contribution button configured to be selected to indicate that a contribution is to be given to
the content provider of the personal content data associated with said user contribution icon,
and given in consideration for sharing by the content provider of the personal content data
over a network from a predetermined server;

said apparatus including,

a contribution amount identification mechanism permitting a contribution amount
identified at a user terminal to be selected or entered not lower than a fixed minimum
amount,

a display manager configured to provide display information to the user terminal for
confirmation of the contribution amount, said display information simultaneously displaying
the contribution icon and the personal content data

a contribution acceptance unit configured to provide an indication of an acceptance of
the contribution from a registered user without a subsequent request for information
regarding how payment is going to be made; and

a contribution processor configured to apportion said contribution amount to include a
service charge, and send an acknowledgement to the user terminal for the contribution
amount, and instruct a credit card company of said credit card of said content provider to
make a settlement based on said created contribution amount.